



## Renaissance Fountain Repaired

by Joan Andersen

One of the first and most impressive of the hardscape features installed in the Gardens is the large fountain located near the gift shop in Clemens Gardens. Since 1999 it has been a much-loved place to visit in the Gardens. It features an ornate design with cranes and gives us the pleasing sound of water flowing as we wander through the flowers. After some harsh Minnesota winters, this lovely fountain was in need of repairs.

Experiencing the "freeze-thaw" weather that is so common in our winters, the granite used in the base and inside the bowl of the fountain began to leak. Water could seep into cracks in the granite and would expand when there was a hard freeze. The City of Saint Cloud hired American Stone Restorations of Oakdale



Photo by Dennis Host

MN to do the repairs. The members of MCBS contributed \$15,000 toward the cost of the project.

All the granite at the base on the outside bowl was replaced with thicker granite. The granite inside the bowl was removed and replaced with a material called Diamond Brite River Rok. It is applied with a trowel and allowed to set and then covered with a seal coat. This material is attractive and should work much better to prevent water damage. A new seal coat will be applied every few years to be sure the water is repelled. The granite capstones were removed, polished and reinstalled.

For additional protection, the fountain will be covered for the winter with a protective tarp to keep the snow out. Be sure to visit next year and see the newly repaired fountain after spring arrives and the water is turned on.

## Los Angeles Arboretum

by William M. Cook

When I travel to other states, I usually try to visit an outdoor attraction in addition to any other business I may have. So, when my family visited southern California in September, I happily took the opportunity to visit the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden east of Los Angeles, in Arcadia.

I was excited to visit the LA Arboretum for two related reasons. First, since it is in the mild Southern California climate, I expected the designers to have included plant exhibits from a variety of climate types. Second, some of you know I particularly enjoy succulent plants, and a Mediterranean environment is ideal

for that particular group. I was not disappointed on either front.

As I was visiting on a day when the high temperature was expected to be over 100 degrees, I elected to get to the LA Arboretum soon after it opened. I ducked briefly into its gift shop, finding a few of the expected books and doo-dads with photos of plants on them, but also a surprisingly large collection of scented soaps and candles. So, on to the 127 acres of plants!

Nearest to the entrance is a heavily landscaped exhibit featuring shade gardens beneath trees, set amongst buildings in the fashion that one might envision in a Mediterranean backyard.

I was somewhat surprised, and also reminded of home, to see a single blooming yellow bearded iris in this mix.

*Continued on page 2*

### In this Issue

Renaissance Fountain Repaired .....	1
Los Angeles Arboretum .....	1-2
Japanese Beetle Update .....	3
Thanks to Root Beer Helpers .....	3
What's Up in the Garden? .....	4
Book Review .....	5
Your Support of Munsinger and Clemens Gardens .....	6
Photo Contest Winners .....	7
A Note From Ozzie Mayers .....	back cover





## Los Angeles Arboretum, continued from page 1



Slightly farther away, I found some of the succulent gardens I was hoping for. A number of agaves had sent their tall flower stalks up probably during the previous spring, and had converted to tall spikes covered in baby agave plants. These were strewn about on the ground underneath the flower stalks, where they had fallen. This transitioned into a small but nice cactus garden, mixed in with interesting boulders and landscape art.

In the center of the Arboretum were my favorite exhibits, a large area featuring African plants and shorter but interesting loops exhibiting plants from nearby Madagascar and the Canary Islands. These were studded with interesting succulents of all sorts, including a spectacular collection of over 180 species of Aloe. If you have never seen tree aloes, you need to put it on your wish list!

The far part of the Arboretum had a mix of habitats associated with other parts of the United States. There was a large bayou area reminiscent of the Deep South, with large oak and magnolia trees and dark understories around muddy water features. You might have thought you were in Louisiana, except for the palm trees mixed into the forest.

Beyond that was a long road lined by trees more familiar to Minnesotans, including bur oaks and black walnuts. The bur oaks (as well as various other oaks) were dropping acorns, as would have been happening in Saint Cloud if there had been any this year. This road continued to a 19th century Victorian house that predated the Arboretum,



Photo by Galmeir

surrounded by orange groves. This part of the Arboretum also had tree and perennial flower exhibits mostly unfamiliar to my more temperate knowledge base. A group of teenagers on a school trip were sitting at the base of a waterfall.

Back on the near side of the Arboretum was a very large exhibit of Australian plants. We associate Australia with deserts, but most of the population of the island continent lives on the southern and eastern coasts, which has a climate similar to that of southern California. There were also two fruit and vegetable garden exhibits in the Arboretum, but I was there at the wrong time of year to see those in full swing.

A few small gems can be found mixed in with the larger exhibits. A shaded semi-enclosed wooden structure housed a huge collection of orchids, growing permanently outside. Two smallish greenhouses support plants that require humidity, including a wide variety of species we think of as annual flowers and houseplants. There was also a sloping hillside covered in *Amaryllis* bulbs planted permanently in the ground. The blooms had largely gone by, replaced by little clusters of bulbs at

the top of the stems which would then figure to fall and grow separately. All around the Arboretum, and around the city in general for that matter, it was always a kick for me to see, growing permanently in the ground, species I only know as potted plants here.

The day grew hot by early afternoon, and I decided I had had enough. As I headed towards the parking lot, I was stopped by a young man with a clipboard who was looking for people to respond to a survey. I said sure, since I was in no hurry. It turned out he was a student at University of Southern California, doing a survey for a class, and it was about what people liked about botanical gardens and their websites. So, even when traveling, I still end up answering questions from friendly students!

The LA Arboretum is definitely recommended. It is large, interesting, and inexpensive to visit. They even do reciprocal admissions with Munsinger/Clemens, for members, although I had forgotten my membership card. If you are ever in the Los Angeles area, bring your MCBS card, and enjoy the Arboretum.



# Japanese Beetle Update

by Beth Berlin, Horticulturist  
University of Minnesota Extension

The Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*) causes significant damage to landscape plants, feeding on over 300 plant species. This invasive insect was accidentally introduced into New Jersey in 1916 and although it has been in Minnesota for decades it wasn't until 2011 that the infestation in the Twin Cities metro area became abundant and significant damage was noticed.

Japanese Beetle is currently abundant in nine counties in Minnesota. Higher infestations are occurring in the Metro area and southeastern Minnesota. The beetle has been confirmed in another 31 counties and reported in a handful more. In the 31 counties that have confirmed Japanese Beetle, the extent of the population is not well known. So far this beetle has not been much of a



problem in Stearns County or Munsinger Clemens Gardens. Gardeners should keep a close watch for this pest.

In Minnesota, adults become active and cause damage in late June/early July through mid/late August. Although they feed on over 300 species of plants, it seems they have their preferred food sources such as grapes, roses, and linden. Leaves will be "skeletonized" because the adult beetles will eat the areas between leaf veins. The larvae (grubs) will eat the roots of lawn grass and other plants.

Japanese beetle is about 1/3" long and 1/4" wide. It is metallic green with coppery wing covers. The most identifying characteristic is the 5 patches of white hairs on each side of the abdomen and 2 white patches on end of the abdomen.

For a homeowner, the best control is to implement a complete Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which includes biological, cultural, and chemical control. To be most effective, monitor both the adult and the larvae populations. It is also important to work with neighbors and your community.

Exact distribution of the Japanese Beetle in Minnesota is not totally known but you can help. Scout for all invasive species, and when you find one, report it to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Arrest the Pest Hotline, 888-545-6684. You can also download the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app on your phone and report the exact location there. Find more information at [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles).

## THANKS to 2016 Root Beer Floats Helpers

A big thank you from MCBS to all those who contributed to our Music in the Gardens concerts in 2016 by helping us provide concertgoers with more than 2000 root beer floats!

We are grateful for the donations of ingredients & supplies from the following:

Kemps	Dairy Queen on 25th
Coborn's	Thrivent Financial
Bernick	Strategic Equipment

Our thanks go also to the garden staff who helped us set up and take down, to the District 742 InnStep Program students who wrapped so many spoons and straws, to all those who fed the donations jar on our floats table, and, of course, to this year's volunteer root beer float servers:

Mary Margaret & Gene Bjorklun  
Ginny Clendenin  
Chris & John Felsch  
Judi Gay  
Larene HarkJack Kelly  
Beverly & Norm Koepp  
Sally Koester  
Sara Magee  
Vera Peterson  
Joyce PohlNikki Rajala

Bruce Regan  
Mary & Dan Rethmeier  
Patsy Schelske  
Lois Sjobeck  
Susan Smith  
Jan & Tom Stavros  
Marcia Summers  
Janelle VanPinnon  
Colleen Vornbrook  
Bill Vossler



To all of you, thank you, thank you, thank you!

## What's Up in the Gardens?



by Joan Andersen

I recently visited with Nia Primus, Gardens Supervisor, to hear her thoughts about the 2016 season. She was happy that we had no long periods of excessive heat and that it actually rained enough so that the staff did not spend a lot of time watering. It was an excellent growing season that lasted well into the fall.

It is always interesting to find out what plants were the real stars of the garden. If you are a plant and you want to be called a top performer, you must bloom like crazy and not get any diseases. In addition, it is preferred that you not need deadheading (removing spent flowers so you will keep on blooming), but exceptions will be made if you are beautiful and visitors really like you. It is also a plus if your flowers provide food for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Here are some of the top picks from 2016:

Pentas lanceolata "Northern Lights" bloomed all summer with clusters of little lavender stars and never needed deadheading at all. It gets about 20" tall and loves the sun.

Dahlia "Hypnotica Orange" is a soft orange/salmon blend. It was planted in the Formal Garden where it performed well all season. This plant grows to 15-20" tall and needs occasional deadheading to keep flowering.

Nia's favorite geranium series this year is called "Patriot." They were planted around the fountain in the Formal garden where they remained full of flowers all season.

Nia also loved a petunia called "Surfinia Patio Indigo." This is a cross between a wild petunia and a cultivated hybrid and it is a mounding plant that blooms heavily. Nia just got the sad news that it is discontinued. Often the growers will replace something with a new "improved" version, so we will have to wait and see what will replace it.

Another fun plant is Alocasia "Stingray." It is an elephant-ear plant but it has leaves shaped like a stingray, held on long

stems that grow 3-5' tall. Very tropical and elegant in the garden and in large pots.

Solenostemon scutellarioides or sun coleus is a plant with a wide range of color, size, and leaf shape. Many coleus must have shade, but sun coleus prefers sun. "Under the Sea" is a series of coleus with bright colors and very deeply lobed leaves. Several cultivars were grown and the favorite performer this year was "Under the Sea Lime Shrimp." It is a medium-sized coleus growing 15-18" tall. Leaves are long and pointed with deep lobes and lime green centers with a purple edge. Another nice sun coleus was "Stained Glass Kiwi Fern." It has deeply lobed leaves in shades of burgundy with a cream edge. Unlike many sun coleus, it is compact and upright, growing to 12" high.

Lisianthus "Mariachi" series was loved by visitors to the Formal Garden for its perfect blooms that look like roses. The plant grows to about 30" tall and the blooms last a long time in the garden and in a vase.

Cleome "Cherry Queen" is a tall airy plant that is also known as spider flower. It was planted in the Rest Area garden where it provided bright color all season and attracted pollinators.

Begonia tuberosa is one of the most loved plants for shady areas because of abundant large bright flowers. Nia finds that the "Go-Go" series is a reliable plant for the shady areas of Munsinger because they bloom all season and are easy to care for.

Celosia argentea plumosa "Dragon's Breath" was a centerpiece of the Rest Area garden. It's a wonderful plant with large long lasting feathery plumes in bright colors. It grows to 24" tall and the showy flowers last a long time in the garden.

Gaura lindheimeri "Pink Fountain" actually did not look too good early in the season. It came alive and looked fantastic in the fall—it was the last annual pulled in the Gardens this year. It grows to 24" and has airy soft pink flowers and bushy foliage with shades of burgundy and green.

The Gardens received a gift of an arbor and bench from the Clemens family, in honor of Bill and Virginia Clemens. These pieces were in the yard of the Clemens home, located across the street from the Gardens. They now have a new home in the Perennial Gardens. When you visit that area, there is now a place to sit and view the flowers and the fountain.

All the gardens are prepared for winter. Seasonal gardeners worked their last day on October 28. Only one major task remains to be done. Tender roses must be covered with construction blankets for the winter once cold weather has arrived or by Thanksgiving, whichever comes first. We are having an unusually warm autumn. As I write this, the roses are still growing and it is too warm to cover them.



## Book Review

by Idella Moberg

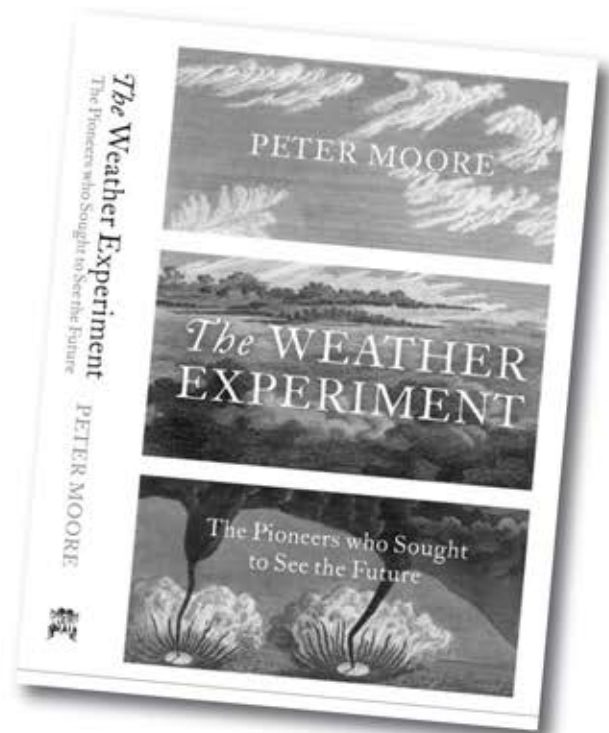
**Moore, Peter. *The Weather Experiment: The Pioneers Who Sought To See the Future*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015.**

Peter Moore frames his history of meteorology and weather forecasting of the 19th century. Each part of his book is prefaced with a beautiful weather meditation that takes us through the day, from Dawn to Morning, Midday, Afternoon, and Dusk. The title of each part gives a clue to the scientific process involved in the history: Seeing, Contesting, Experimenting, Believing. This double structure interfaces faith and science, within which naturalists and artists traveled the world seeking to learn and understand the laws that govern the heavens—or should I say the atmosphere.

Before any weather could be forecast, certain scientific innovations were made. Moore lays out developments for his readers. Winds were classified. Morse's electric telegraph was invented, so that data could be quickly collected and weather reports and warnings sent. Weather maps were drawn showing the world's weather at a given moment. Newspapers printed the daily weather reports. The study of meteorology came, in time, to depend on large networks of people collecting weather data.

Peter Moore tells stories about several people who studied the weather in the 19th century. Sir Francis Beaufort, for example, devised the first widely adopted wind and weather scale. The meteorological work of John Dalton focused on the nature of matter and of atoms. Heinrich Dove studied conflicting air masses. Many people studied storms. Benjamin Franklin had his famous kite experiment, William Redfield studied spiraling winds of cyclones, William Reid collected data from West Indian storms. James Glaisher, meteorologist and balloonist, studied dew and snowflakes, and from his balloon he located a current which later became known as the jet stream. John Tyndall discovered that some gases in the atmosphere can retain more heat than others. This phenomenon was later called the greenhouse effect. Moore introduces us to these and many other scientists who developed the science of meteorology during the 19th century.

Captain Robert FitzRoy became known as the father of weather forecasting. He collected weather data from sea captains and others on land. He used Beaufort's wind scale while he commanded the HMS Beagle, Charles Darwin's famous voyage, and used the electric telegraph to give storm warnings. When in 1859 a ship coming home to Liverpool from Australia was wrecked along the Welsh coast by an unexpected storm, FitzRoy promoted a storm warning plan intending to prevent other such loss of life. The Christian



belief in divine providence came into conflict with the idea of predicting future events. Contemporary debate included questions about the power and integrity of religion, about who governed the weather, God or science. The conflict became politicized.

Today the weather forecast is generally accepted. Instead the issue of greenhouse gases and global warming has become a highly controversial debate among politicians, scientists, and fossil fuel advocates who do not believe that global warming is happening.

Peter Moore teaches nonfiction writing at City University London. Recently he was the writer in residence at Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, Wales. He has also written *Damn His Blood: Being a True and Detailed History of the Most Barbarous* and *In humane Murder at Oddingley and the Quick and Awful Retribution*.

To give additional support to Music, ArtFair, or the Gardens, complete the form below and mail to:

MCBS, PO Box 7594, St Cloud MN 56302

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Event supported \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or visit our website to give at [www.munsingerclermens.com](http://www.munsingerclermens.com)

## Your Support of Munsinger and Clemens Gardens

Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society is an all volunteer group that is beginning its 17th year organizing summer activities in the Gardens and aiding maintenance of the Gardens. Your support of those activities enables all of us to enjoy Munsinger and Clemens Gardens.

In the past months, you may have attended Music in the Gardens on six alternate Sundays, strolled tents filled with displays at the Art Fair in July, and participated in the photo contest concluded recently with this year's awards. Next summer season you will be able to attend music in Munsinger Gardens on June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, and August 6 and 20. Our Art Fair will be held on July 20, 2017.

Also, we trust that you find our membership newsletter informative on Gardens activities and perhaps instructive on some of your own gardening interests. Other sources of information are our website, [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com), and Facebook at Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society.

### Other Benefits fo MCBS Membership

Still another benefit of membership that we hope you are able to take advantage of sometime is the Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP) through the American Horticultural Society. With your MCBS membership card you may have reduced admission prices to numerous gardens, arboreta, and conservatories in the U.S. and Canada. Check [www.ahs.org/rap](http://www.ahs.org/rap) for an updated garden listing and for the benefits at each site you plan to see. You can see a report on one of these visits in this newsletter. One more benefit you may find useful is a 15% discount at the gift shop in Clemens Gardens.

In addition to all these activities, an important mission for MCBS is to help support the Gardens with a yearly grant. In 2016, for example, we contributed \$15,000 toward necessary repairs on the Renaissance Fountain.

### Join Today!

Your membership will help maintain the Gardens and support Special Events

We do appreciate your shared interest in support of our Gardens.  
In case it's time for your renewal, perhaps this box will guide you.



### Membership Application and Renewals

- ☐ \$50-\$99 (Basic Membership)
- ☐ \$100-\$250
- ☐ \$250-\$500
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Gifts over the Basic Membership may be designated to: \_\_\_\_\_ Music in the Gardens \_\_\_\_\_ Art Fair in the Gardens

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteering for events

### Thank You!

Make your check payable to Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society.  
Mail your check to Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society  
PO Box 7594, St. Cloud, MN 56302





## Photo Contest Winners

by Mary Margaret Bjorklun

The photo contest committee is very pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 photo contest.

**Congratulations to these fine photographers.**

**Best of Show, John Roscoe, "Gazing Upward"**

**1st Adult Hardscape, Lisa Henning, "Into the Blue"**

**2nd Adult Hardscape, Susan Aune, "Looking Out"**

**3rd Adult Hardscape, Jenny Seil, "Golden Moment"**

**1st Adult Landscape, Suzanna Johnson, "Yellow Flames"**

**2nd Adult Landscape, Susan Aune, "Afternoon Delight"**

**3rd Adult Landscape, Alexandra Kimmerle, "Down by the Old Wishing Well"**

**1st Youth Landscape, Andrew Schroeder, "Untitled"**

**2nd Youth Landscape, Abigail Gans, "Flowers on End"**

**3rd Youth Landscape, Ellie Terhaar, "A Walk in the Garden"**

**1st Youth Hardscape, Zach Schroeder, "The Lone Bench"**

**2nd Youth Hardscape, Abigail Gans, "A Meeting Place"**

**3rd Youth Hardscape, Elyce Lilleberg, "Flowing Fountain"**

A public reception and awards ceremony was held November 19 at the Saint Cloud Public Library. Carol Weilor, an experienced teacher and photographer, served as the contest judge. MCBS thanks all who participated in the 2016 contest.

The winning photos will be displayed for the public in the following places during 2016-2017. Also, the contest committee invites you to visit our website, [munsingerclemens.com](http://munsingerclemens.com), to see the winning photos. We invite you also to consider visiting the Gardens during the winter months and next spring, summer, and fall, keeping the MCBS photo contest in mind.

### Winning Photo Displays

November/December, Saint Cloud Public Library

January, Saint Cloud Medical Group

February, CentraCare

March, US Bank

April/May, Whitney Senior Center

June/July, River's Edge Convention Center

September, Saint Cloud Hospital

October, Quiet Oaks Hospice House



PO Box 7594  
St. Cloud, MN 56302  
[www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com)

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St Cloud, MN  
Permit #1446

[www.MunsingerClemens.com](http://www.MunsingerClemens.com)

[jill@jillucadesign.com](mailto:jill@jillucadesign.com)

Jill Lucas Design • 743-4471

**Layout & Design**

[dgorrell@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:dgorrell@stcloudstate.edu)

Donna Gorrell • 252-8834

**Coordinator & Editor**

[lakesidegirl@hotmail.com](mailto:lakesidegirl@hotmail.com)

**Membership Questions**

Articles and comments are welcomed.

will be in April.

four times a year. The next issue

MCBS newsletter is published

Bruce Regan

Nia Primus

Jack Kelly

Donna Gorrell

Chris Felsch

William Cook

Elaine Carter

Sam Calvert

Mary Margaret Bjorklund

Jill Florek

Joan Andersen

**Co-Chairs**

**Board of Directors**

**MCBS**

[www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com)

**We've Gone Social!**  
**LIKE our Facebook page Munsinger**  
**Clemens Botanical Society**



"like" us on

*The Munsinger Clemens Gardens: The Jewel of St. Cloud* by Stephen Fuller is available for purchase at the Gardens Gift Shop. Fuller began work on this book in 2012 and completed it right before he died on February 6, 2015. The book features photos of the Gardens over the seasons, and it contains historical essays on the development of the Gardens.

**A Note from Ozzie Mayers:**